

The presence of water has historically been one of the keys for development and evolution of humanity. All civilizations of the planet have located their towns and settlements near areas with abundance of water, since it was used for irrigation, consumption, hygiene, as a mean of communication, etc. And Chiva is not different. It is a town born from water, whose origin lies in the ravine which is the objective of this work.

However, at present, the population of Chiva has turned its back on water, belittling it and mistreating it, to the point of turning it into a source of dirt, contamination and disease. For this reason, the project seeks to reverse this process that has been developed over the last few decades, returning the place to water and all the life that, by nature, is generated around it. It is time for Chiva's heart to beat again, for the water to flow with purity through what is and always will be its main artery, the one that gave rise to the city.

First of all, the project is an opportunity to **promote the territorial development of Chiva**, connecting better “Sierra of Chiva” with its people. The main **strategy** is focused on attracting rural or non-stationary tourism, enhancing the conservation of marked routes and the consumption of alternative leisure activities, a very growing option nowadays. The proposals for reaching this new line of development are:

- Installation of a **Vía Ferrata** in “Peñasalbas” Quarries, combining sports with cultural landscape.
- Increase licences to offer **new restauration and leisure points** along the routes in the “Sierra”.
- Make a network of “**boulder**” **climbing spots**, since the mountain offers the perfect spots for it.
- Installation of **Lodging Cabins** for forest overnight, following other European mountains.

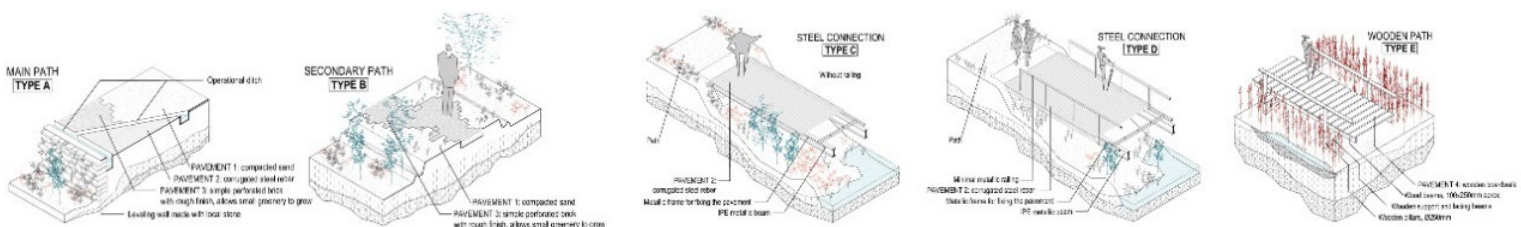
Some other proposals are, for example, to promote actions to revalue **archeological heritage**, to favor the projects of **local associations** with agreements and financing, and also the construction of an “**Activities Center**” which will be the reference point for visitors.

Focusing on the ravine of Chiva, the objective is to “sew” both sides of the city and fill the gap with new activities and vibrant spaces. For this reason, the common element of the whole project is **THE PATH**, which will be built with **4 main materials** that we can find all over the project:



All of them are very **basic** materials, so it is easy to find them in the municipality. Also, they are quite **cheap**, because they are essential for building companies. And, also important, they are all used with a **rough finish**, showing clearly the raw material and his “humblest side”.

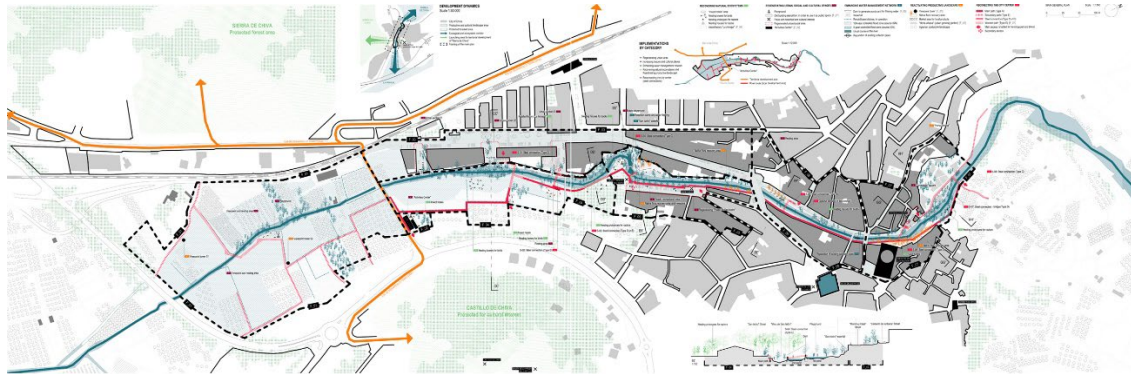
Knowing the materiality of the entire project, it is also defined each type of “path” that is possible to find in the River Route, as we can see in the drawings, with **constructive details**.



The Main Path (Type A), as well as "Type D" and "Type E", they are always **above the flooding level**. In the first case, the leveling stone wall is used for and thus, we avoid deterioration in the new infrastructure in case of flooding. On the other hand, the Secondary Paths (Type B) and Steel Connections "Type C" are built **at ground level**, so they are prepared to be flooded in such a case.

In the project, **7 'sections' or 'execution phases'** are distinguished, which make the project economically and temporally viable. The followed strategy is to implement **small facilities scattered** throughout the

project area and around the paths network, in order to reach the next objectives: recovering natural ecosystems, regenerating urban, social and cultural spaces, enhancing water management network, reactivating productive landscape and reconnecting the city center.



F_01 AGROPARK, PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPE

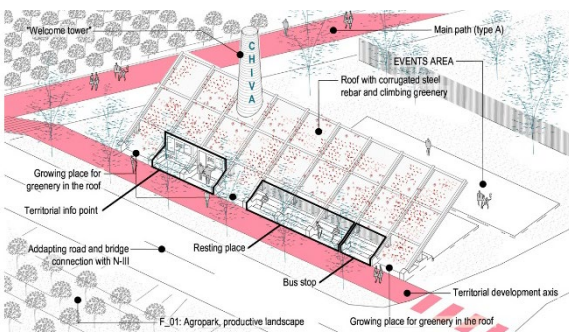
The river enters the project area through the SECTION / PHASE n° 01 from the south, an area of **old rice fields** popularly known as "La Armajal". It is currently a **floodable area** mainly with Mediterranean fruit trees, both irrigated and dry crops, and which generate a rich **agricultural landscape** very typical in the Valencian countryside.

In this area, a **network of basic paths** (type B and type E) will be developed, only with some very specific interventions that will generate **resting spaces, viewpoints and panels** to inform the visitor of the agrarian activity that takes place in this area.

"La Armajal" involuntarily becomes an **"Agropark"**, an area for the enjoyment and contemplation of **productive landscape** and for learning about the local agricultural farmers and products.

F_02 "ACTIVITIES CENTER"

The construction of an "Activities Center" is proposed, which becomes the **point of interference** between the "Fluvial route" of the ravine and the "Territorial Development Axis". It is the place of reference, where **the main marked routes start** towards the "Sierra", the Castle of Chiva and the "Virgen del Castillo" Church in the backside of the hill.



It is a **multidisciplinary space** which is designed to host many different events, whose objective is to boost the economy and the development of the different sectors and associations of Chiva. As it is not thermally or rain insulated, it is a space that is not designed to develop permanent uses. Here are some of the functional possibilities: market of local products, educational workshops for children, events for local associations, performances, dances, cinema, etc.

The morphology of this "Center" is inspired by **two traditional constructions** of the agrarian countryside in Valencia's region:

The inclined roof holding a net of corrugated steel rebar, with the greenery climbing to give shade, conceptually resembles to the sloping roofs of **LA BARRACA**, also made with a vegetable network of cane, hurdle and similars.

The central element, with the only permanent functions (warehouse, kiosk and meteorological station), rises imposing as the typical Valencian **INDUSTRIAL OVENS** does, in order to welcome visitors and recognize the "Center" as a reference point.

F_03 URBAN POCKETS FOR NEW CONNECTIONS

"Ramón y Cajal" Street is the entry point to the City of Chiva from the south, and one of the main accesses to the train station. The area has, therefore, heavy vehicle traffic. Knowing this, a minimal intervention is proposed with the **implementation of 3 "urban pockets"**, which provide this artery with more areas dedicated to pedestrians, green infrastructure and, of course, some areas with **fantastic views** of the ravine and Chiva's Castle. Two of them also generate a new access to the fluvial route developed in SECTION / PHASE nº 04, **connecting it with the train station** neighbourhood.

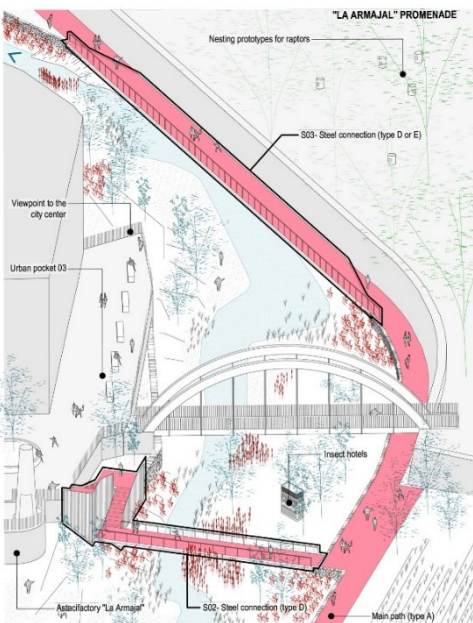
F_04 RAVINE OF "LA ARMAJAL"

From the "Activities Center" placed in the SECTION / PHASE nº02, the river route is concentrated in a **single main path** that runs through this section before entering the urban area. This section/phase has a fundamental role in the **recovery of native fauna**, so its main interventions are dedicated to this. Some proposals are the installation of "insect hotels", nesting towers for migratory birds, houses for raptor birds and other smaller birds, duck houses, ponds and waterholes for amphibians and fish reproduction, etc.

In this way, this section also becomes a place for **observing local fauna**, with a **didactic character** for general population but especially for school groups that can participate in sensitisation workshops, for example for eradicate invasive species, among other things.

One of the most ambitious proposals is the construction of an **"Astacifactory"**, ruled by the **"Jucar Hydrographic Confederation"**, and which will join the network of "fish farms" in charge of **repopulating Mediterranean rivers** with endemic and endangered species, focusing on "native crayfish" and the "Turia's madrilla".

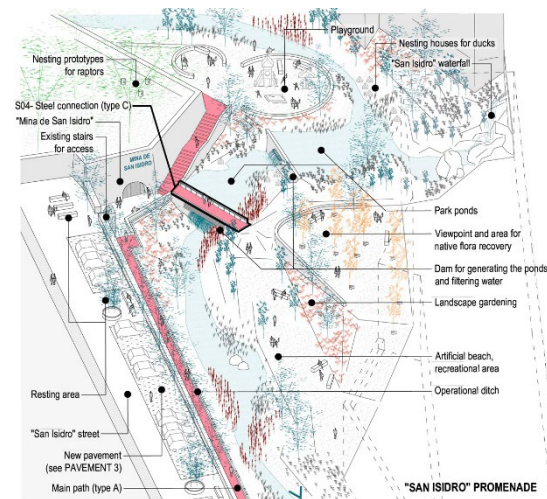
Appart from the last interventions to recover native fauna, this section includes **3 important Steel Connections** that helps the main path to have **new access**, keeping the hole capacity of the riverbed.



F_05 RAVINE OF "SAN ISIDRO" PROMENADE

The main path, just after passing the "S03- Steel Connection", widens to generate a **playground** for children in one of the best environments of the project, with the great view of the **waterfall and the "San Isidro" ponds**. These ponds have been artificially reinforced with two cyclopean concrete walls, which generate two more extensive sheets of water. This area is now more suitable for the **reproduction and refuge of amphibians, fishes, birds...** besides improving **water filtering**.

The path continues flush with the wall, connecting with the existing access to the mine and "San Isidro" street (southern end point). A **discreet bridge** (S04- Steel Connection) crosses the water following the second dam, which leads to many secondary spaces for resting and enjoying nature (**beach area, gardens, viewpoint...**).



The main path continues downriver, following the retaining wall of "San Isidro" street. This street suffers a **quick remodeling**, changing mainly the parking and pedestrian pavement, and also generating new small resting areas. As it passes through the old "abrevadero", a new access adapted for bicycles and disabled

people is generated.

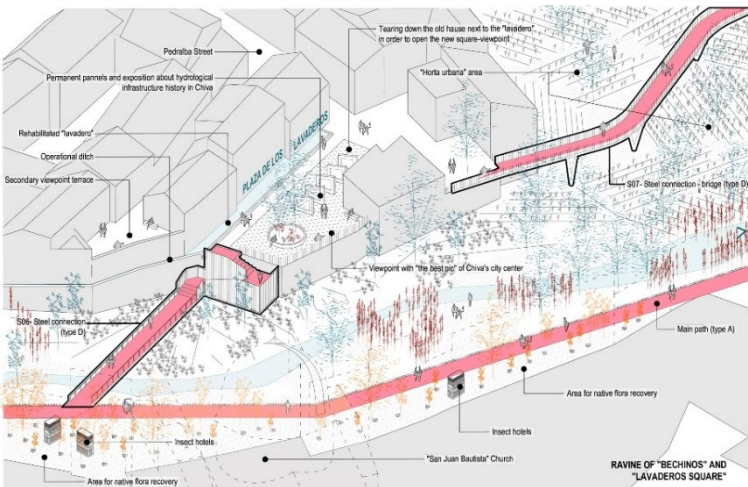
F_06 RAVINE OF "BUÑOL STREET"

The path continues the discreet route under the "Antonio Machado" Bridge and until reaching the "Old Bridge". The interventions in this river section are limited to **ensuring connections** with the upper streets of the old town ("Buñol" Street), as well as **small resting areas** and, mainly the **reparation of waste water collectors**, which remain camouflaged but their access is secured for maintenance.

On the upper level, "Buñol" Street will host an intervention of **tactical urbanism** to reduce the speed of traffic and generating **spaces for local business**, thus returning the spotlight to pedestrians.

F_07 RAVINE OF "BECHINOS" AND "LAVADEROS SQUARE"

After the Old Bridge, the river path reaches its final stretch. The main path continues along the east bank of the river, accompanied by a large **garden for the recovery of native flora**. This place is located in the residual area which is between the main path and "Bechinos" neighbourhood facades, creating a green landscape that **highlights the Old Town and the main church**. All plants are classified, marked and they are the beginning-base for **replanting other areas**. It is also a space that, once again, is used as a place for ecological outreach and outdoor teaching.



Outside the city center, the final section of the river route is regenerated to host urban gardens ("**Horta Urbana**"), so that young and old people can cultivate and learn about the typical gastronomy of the "Valencian horta".

Before the "Native flora garden", a **walkway and stairs split from the main path** to connect the ravine with the old Chiva's washing places ("**lavadero**"), which will be rehabilitated and will be accompanied by a permanent photographic exhibition on the history of hydrological infrastructures in the municipality. The construction next to it will also be **demolished to create a very generous public space** at the end of

"Pedralba" street, with the **perfect views** of the ravine and the old "Bechinos" neighbourhood, including the "San Juan Bautista" Church.

From "**Lavaderos**" Square, the splitted path becomes a **promenade-bridge** that goes down slightly like a ramp, with a sinuous path above the ravine and the "Horta Urbana". It reaches the "Olivera" path, where it meets the main path that follows the watercourse at a lower level, and generating a **new connection with the old "Bechinos" neighbourhood**. The main path stops in this point, but a secondary path continues a few meters further north, also connecting the river route with the lower point of "Cuesta del Cardador".

Thanks to this strategy of designing small facilities scattered throughout the project, the Chiva ravine sounds again. Not only the water that runs down the river becoming purer, but also the birds, the animals, the leaves of the trees and, above all, its people. Together they regenerate a new balanced and authentic ecosystem.